GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4075
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2008
HIGHER EDUCATION TO ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS
Jatiya Dr. Satyanarayan

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the arrangements made by the Government for imparting higher education and training to the socially and economically weaker students;

(b) The measures taken by the Government to upgrade the level of their education and expertise during each year from 2004-2005 to 2007-08; and

(c) The out come thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c) Several initiatives have been taken by the Government since 2004-2005 in the higher education sector which broadly as well as specifically address the needs of students belonging to the weaker sections.

(1) Constitution has been amended to incorporate Article 15(5) for the advancement of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Socially and Educationally Backward Classes of citizens in so as their admission to educational institutions is concerned.

(2) A Central law has been brought into force for reserving seats in admission for the SCs, the STs and the Other Backward Classes in educational institutions, established, maintained or aided by the Central Government.

(3) Budgetary allocations in respect of higher and technical education has been substantially increased during the years since 2004-2005 in order to expand existing capacity as well as to establish new institutions.

(4) New Indian Institutes of management, new Indian Institutes of Technology, new Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research, new Indian Institutes of Information Technology, new polytechnics, new Central Universities as well as universities aiming at world class standards, have been included in the 11th Plan proposals approved by the National Development Council (NDC). An Indian Institute of Management at Shillong and Indian Institute of Science Education & Research at Kolkata and Pune have been established during the period.

(5) Every state in the North East region now has a Central University − Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh Universities were made Central Universities during this period and a Central University was established in Sikkim during this period.

(6) Indira Gandhi National Tribal University with headquarters at Amarkantak has also been conceived and a legislative proposal enacted during the period.

(7) In order to raise Gross Enrolment Ratio for weaker sections including the minorities, 370 districts have been identified for sensitizing State Governments for setting up one College of Excellence in each of such districts.

(8) The UGC continued its scheme for remedial coaching for SC/ST and backward minorities during the period. The Commission also operationalized Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships on behalf of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(9) A scheme for subsidizing interests burden on educational loans availed by students belonging to weaker sections has been included in the 11th Plan as approved by the NDC

(10) In addition Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarship Scheme for the single girl child can be availed by eligible girl students belonging to weaker sections.